

GED® Express Webinar

February 10-11, 2015

Summary of Questions and Answers

Will the state be issuing more GED Ready™ test vouchers?

Yes, KYAE purchased more Ready™ test vouchers in 2015 from KET for distribution to our programs. KET experienced a delay in receiving the vouchers from GED Testing Service® but planned to begin distribution in March. The vouchers will come in an email to program directors from Ron Griffin at KET.

The Kentucky Department of Corrections has prerequisites in place for their students before those students are allowed to take the Ready™ test. I think these are obstacles and how do I overcome them?

KYAE staff met with the Department of Corrections staff and they are rethinking and relaxing some of their requirements. Nothing has been decided officially.

You referred several times to the "GED® Diagnostic". Is that the Ready™ test?

No, most publishers of GED® instructional materials have diagnostic tests included with their study materials. We are suggesting that these diagnostic or pretests be used with the TABE to help determine if a student would benefit from proceeding to the Ready™ test.

Will we be receiving more FAST FORWARD seats?

Once a student completes FAST FORWARD, the seat can be reactivated for a new student. Some seats have been redistributed to counties who requested additional seats. We will have to evaluate whether funds are available for the purchase of any additional seats.

Currently, I put students who are taking Ready™ tests only in KAERS as OPT. Am I supposed to enroll them differently now and check the GED® Express box?

You should continue to put those students who take the Ready™ tests only in KAERS as OPT. After further clarification from the KAERS staff, we have determined that the GED® Express service indicator button should be checked when a student proceeds to the Ready™ test for one or more content area modules before receiving any instruction. This will allow us to track GED® Express.

We have been trying to locate the new Kaplan book we keep hearing about, but can only locate the one we already had. What is the title or ISBN?

Kaplan has an updated book for the 2014 GED® test. This book, along with other print materials available from other 2014 GED® test preparation publishers, are especially helpful for those teaching in correctional centers that do not allow access to online instructional materials. You can link to a list of all publishers of 2014 GED® test preparation materials at <http://www.gedtestingservice.com/educators/2014publishers>. You can order the Kaplan Book from the publisher at www.kaptest.com/GED, which actually directs you to Amazon.com, or it is available through GED.com by selecting "Browse Study Materials."

We saw a spike in testing when the Ready™ test was free, however we did not see a spike in passing.

Kentucky students are doing well on the GED® test. Our pass rate on the 2014 GED® test was 82% for the first calendar year of the test and so far this FY, our pass rate is 84% as compared to the national pass rate of 60%.

The pass rate is great! However, that is for very few students. What about the rest of them?

The pass rates for the individual content area modules of the GED® test are also very good. So far this fiscal year, 85% pass RLA, 83% pass science, 79% pass math, and 78% pass social studies. Students are also scoring well on the Ready™ test. 95% of students score in “too close to call” or “likely to pass for” RLA, science, and social studies. For math, 79% of students score “too close to call” or “likely to pass”.

I want to confirm that there is no requirement to have a person score in the “likely to pass” to use the KYAE vouchers.

The student must pass the Ready™ test, score of 150, to receive the state \$20 voucher.

How do we indicate a student is a GED® Express student in KAERS?

Following the live webinar, we met with staff who works with KAERS to get clarification about this. This led to a better definition of how to identify GED® Express students. Please mark the GED® Express service indicator in KAERS for any student who takes the Ready™ test for one or more content area modules before receiving any instruction. Entering the information in KAERS will help us track the GED® Express initiative.

When will reporting in KAERS begin?

Begin indicating your GED® Express students in KAERS when you implement GED® Express in your program—which should be by March 26.

Please give us some detail on the “Checklist”.

The sample checklists are available on our website. There is a checklist for teachers and one for students. The workgroup included items they thought would be helpful in leading students through the GED® process. Please feel free to take the checklists, edit them for your own program, and then share the changes with us so we can pass along your good ideas.

Does the GED® Express have to be a “Lab”, or can it be a managed class offered over a short time period, perhaps 3 weeks?

GED® Express is a flexible framework for offering targeted or accelerated GED® instruction. One of the requirements for the program is something you probably already have available—a FAST Track lab. This is a lab, usually with online instructional materials and facilitated by a teacher, which allows students to work on the instructional recommendations generated from the enhanced score report at MyGED or from one of the print publishers. Students who need intensive instruction should be directed to a managed classroom. GED® Express also has the option of a test preparation module or class which would include the test and calculator tutorials, formula and reference sheets, and information about the format of the test.

Will the students need a certain amount of hours to take the GED Ready™ test?

Student performance on the TABE and GED® diagnostic should guide you about whether a student would benefit from going directly to the Ready™ test for one or more content area modules before instruction. Remember, the Ready™ test is going to generate the recommendations for the targeted instruction in the FAST Track lab. If student scores on the TABE and diagnostic are low, you may want the student to enroll in a managed classroom

before attempting the Ready™ test. GED® Express is a flexible framework and decisions about who to direct to the Ready™ test and the number of instructional hours for classes can be made locally.

What about jails, I assume they are exempt?

GED® Express is a public marketing campaign and all programs are expected to implement it in your public program. There are elements which may be beneficial to your instruction in correctional centers, such as using the Ready™ test to obtain recommendations for targeted instruction. Each program should employ the practices thought to be most beneficial for their students.

Will students have to be physically in a lab to complete the online instruction?

The FAST Track lab is a required element of GED® Express. It should be an on-site lab where a teacher is present to assist and direct the students.

We are already doing this for many of our students. Great idea, glad there will be marketing, but we already do targeted, facilitated instruction.

We recognize that many programs already have these elements in place. GED® Express was a way for us to organize those components and wrap a marketing plan around them to attract students to our programs.

So we shouldn't really be focusing on level gains for those who are in GREEN and YELLOW??

If someone scores in the GREEN range for a content area module, they do not really need any instruction. Those students, who are not typical, would continue to be OPT only. Those who score in the YELLOW range will benefit from the targeted instruction available in the FAST track lab. All “GED Express FAST Track” labs should be titled “GED Express FAST Track” in KAERS. The YELLOW range students will receive instruction and can be post-tested. If those students are improving their skills for the GED® test, they should be able to make level gains. However, if instruction is targeted to the TABE, students will not develop the depth of knowledge needed to be successful on the GED® test.

Since budgets are already well expended, some counties will have difficulty implementing this.

Most programs already have these elements in place. KYAE has provided free FAST FORWARD seats, which is what is needed for the targeted instruction. You can determine how that lab is offered locally, and work within the parameters of your existing staff. Free Ready™ test vouchers and discounts on the cost of the GED® test have also been provided, so there should not be a budgetary impact.

Thanks to all of you. We are looking forward to riding the "GED Express".